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GRANTHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
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of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1925.

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CHARLES H. D. ROEBS,

B.A. (Oxon), M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

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# GRANTHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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CHARLES H. D. ROBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1926.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Nineteenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Rural District for the Year 1925.

In accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health, this is to be considered a Survey Report, dealing more fully than usual with the sanitary conditions of the area, and noting the progress made during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health, and any changes which have occurred during this period.

The usual list of General Statistics is placed at the beginning of the report, for convenience of reference.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

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Area	-	-	-	-	85,827 acres.
Population estimated for 1925					
				for Birth Rate	12,430.
				for Death Rate	11,970.
Assessable Value	-			-	£83,471.
Proceeds of penny rate				-	£413.
<u>Births</u>		Total.		Males.	Females.
		255		138	117
Birth Rate	-	-	-	-	20.5 per 1000.
Average ditto for England and Wales					18.3 " "
<u>Deaths</u>		Total		Males.	Females.
		159		74	85
Death Rate	-	-	-	-	13.3 per 1000.
Average ditto for England and Wales					12.2 " "
Deaths of children under One Year of Age:					
		Total		Males.	Females.
		19.		11.	8.
		No illegitimate deaths.			
		Rate per 1000 Births		-	74.1.
Average death rate, England and Wales					75.



## A. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

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The Area of the district is 85,827 acres.

The population at the Census in 1921 was found to be 11,960.

For the present year it is computed at 12,430 for the purposes of ascertaining the Birth Rate, and 11,970 for calculating the Death Rate.

The population at the Census 1901 was 12,426.

The population at the Census 1911 was 12,257.

It will be seen, therefore, that the population has varied very slightly in the last 25 years.

The Physical features and general character of the area may be described as agricultural in type. Tilling of the land is the main occupation, and there are no large industrial factories. A fair number of residents are occupied in ironstone works, an important belt of this ore being found in the area.

There are no villages of large size. The nearness to Grantham, a Market Town with good railway facilities, is a convenience to the Farmers and other inhabitants.

Details as to the number of houses and number of families or separate occupiers are not available.

The Assessable Value is £83,471, the proceeds of a penny rate being £413.

The Vital Statistics tabulated above show that the Birth Rate is slightly above the average for the kingdom, the Death Rate also slightly above the average, and the infantile death rate practically identical with it.

The number of illegitimate births was 22, being rather over nine per cent. This is an excessive figure, the average number for the preceding years being 17.

The Table of Causes of Death is appended. It will be seen that there was one death from enteric fever, and ten from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 17 from various forms of malignant disease.

The figures for pulmonary tuberculosis are higher than usual.

The other causes of death call for no special comment.





Poor Law Relief.—During the year, 156 persons were in receipt of relief at a cost of £39 per week. This shows a reduction on the preceding year, when 189 persons were relieved at a weekly cost of £42.

There was no special cause of sickness or invalidity during the year.

## B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

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Hospitals. The Council has an Isolation Hospital, with two wards and an administrative block, which is capable of dealing with 12 cases of infectious disease in adults, or 16 in children. This is situated 3 miles from Grantham, and is in a fairly central position for the district. The Hospital was open for 5 weeks in the autumn of 1915, six cases of Scarlet Fever being admitted.

The ordinary hospital needs of the area are met by the Grantham Hospital, which contains 36 beds, and by the Infirmary attached to the Poor Law Institution in Grantham.

Arrangements have recently been made whereby maternity cases requiring major operative treatment can be admitted to a home at Lincoln.

There is no institutional treatment available in the district for Tuberculosis, but it will be shown later in the report that every possible facility is given for tuberculous patients to receive sanatorium treatment outside the area.

Unmarried mothers can be admitted to the Grantham Infirmary, and this institution also receives, in emergency, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

Ambulance Facilities are ample, a motor ambulance supplying the needs of both the Borough and District, and being frequently used. This is employed for non-infectious cases only. This Ambulance, received from the Red Cross Society, is the joint property of the Borough and Rural District.

The Rural District possesses a horse ambulance, for conveyance of infectious cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—There are actually none in the area. It is obvious that in a Rural District, Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and School Clinics would not be feasible, as only a





very small proportion of the potential patients could attend, owing to the distance involved in reaching any one village from many of the others.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary and Venereal Treatment Centre at Grantham are available for the district.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are :

- (i) The Medical Officer of Health, part-time.
- (ii) The Sanitary Inspector, whole-time.

In each case a contribution is made to the salary by an Exchequer Grant.

Nursing in the Home.—In nearly all the villages of the district, the services of a qualified nurse are available for general nursing, under the Victoria Nursing Scheme. In cases of infectious disease nursed at home, where the services of a nurse are required, the expenses are borne by the authority, where circumstances make this course advisable. This course was adopted during the year in nursing three cases of enteric fever.

Midwives.—No midwives are employed or are subsidized by the authority. Some of the Victoria Nurses are qualified midwives and act in this capacity.

Chemical Work.—Arrangements as to examination of sputa, throat swabs, and blood in cases of suspected enteric fever, are made with the Clinical Research Association, the authority defraying the cost.

### C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

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Water.—The chief Source of the water supply in the various villages of the district is derived from shallow wells. These wells are liable to pollution, unless every precaution is taken. Many analyses have been made in various parts of the district, and certain areas, particularly in Barrdoby and Carlton, show definite evidence of soil pollution. The danger has been lessened by improving the sanitary conditions in these and other areas during the last 20 years. There has been no evidence of a water-borne epidemic in the district during the present century. A few villages, e.g., Ropsley, Colsterworth, Sudbrook, and Great Ponton derive their water supply from Springs, and, in the case of the first three villages mentioned, storage tanks with pipe supply. Boothby is supplied by a deep-bore well, with pumping plant, and the question of continuing this supply is now receiving the attention of your Sanitary Committee. The water throughout the district is rather hard, and has no plumbo-solvent action. The supply, on the whole, compares favourably with neighbouring rural districts.



Rivers and Streams. --The River Witham rises in the district, and flows through it. There is no gross pollution of the river, action having been taken in several cases during the last few years to prevent pollution.

Drainage and Sewerage. --Each year the condition of the district has been improved in respect of these important matters. Sewage schemes at Barrowby and Hough, instituted several years ago, have proved of value. The conditions at Great Conarby have been improved, and are now being further ameliorated.

Closet Accomodation. --There are but few water-closets in the area. The policy of the Sanitary Officers has been to recommend the pan type of privy, which can be frequently emptied. Many old ash-pits have been done away with, and covered concreted receptacles substituted.

Scavenging is not undertaken by the Authority. It is understood that each village should do what is necessary in this respect. This is not always carried out satisfactorily, but it is obvious that a general scheme over such a large area is almost impracticable.

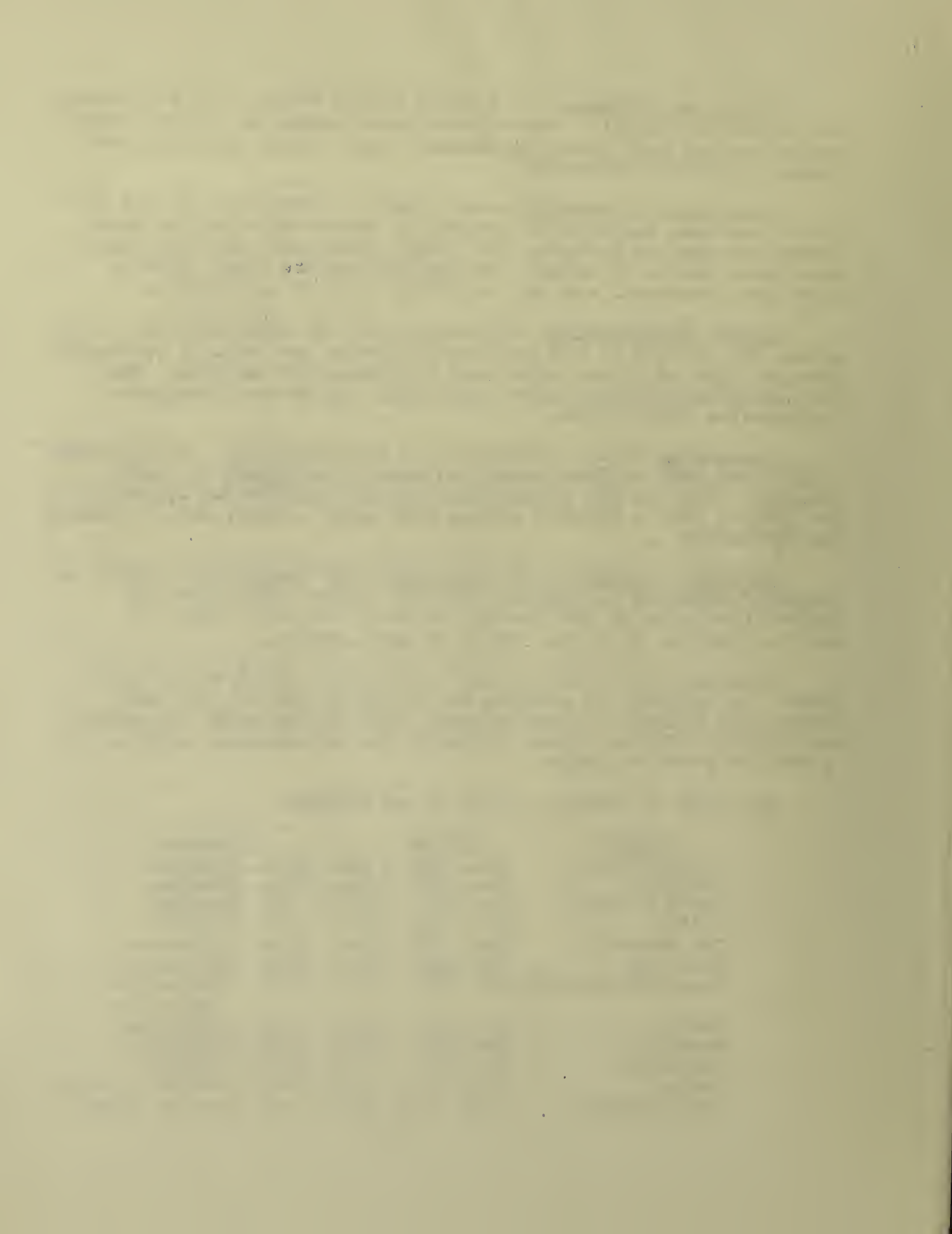
Sanitary Inspection of the Area. --The Inspector's report is appended, showing in tabular form the number and nature of inspections made by him during the year, and the number of notices served, with the result of such action.

Schools. --The general health of school children has been good. An epidemic of measles in the early part of the year caused the closure of four schools, and in September the School at Colsterworth was closed owing to the threatening outbreak of a Scarlet Fever epidemic.

The list of Schools closed is as follows:

<u>School.</u>	<u>Period.</u>	<u>Reason.</u>
Colsterworth.	Jan. 5th - Jan. 14th.	Measles.
Stainby.	Jan. 5th - Jan. 20th.	Measles.
North Witham.	Jan. 19th - Feb. 6th.	Measles.
Welby.	Mar. 3rd - Mar. 20th.	Measles.
Old Somerby.	Mar. 6th - Mar. 13th.	Influenza.
Barrowby.	Mar. 13th - Mar. 27th.	Influenza.
Hough-on-the-Hill.	Mar. 18th - Apr. 3rd.	Measles and Influenza.
Denton.	Mar. 23rd - Apr. 9th.	Influenza.
Ropsley.	Mar. 26th - Apr. 9th.	Influenza.
Barrowby.	May 27th - June 12th.	Measles.
Denton.	July 7th - July 21st.	Measles & Mumps.
Colsterworth.	Sept. 17th - Oct. 2nd.	Scarlet Fever.





#### D. HOUSING.

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Housing conditions in rural districts at the present time are not good, and this is found to be the case in your district. Some of the reasons are obvious, and need not be dwelt upon here. It is not realized by all that in the case of villages in the neighbourhood of a town there is a considerable demand for houses by people whose occupation lies in the town, and it is clearly the duty of a local authority in considering the needs of their area, under Section 60 of the Housing Act, 1925, to give their first thought to the bona-fide rural population.

Your Council has not confined itself to these narrow lines, as the Council Houses at Gonerby clearly show, but it may fairly be stated that for the residents who are engaged in agriculture there is no actual shortage of houses, were it not that some of the houses are occupied by persons whose occupation is different. The Council at the present time is hoping to evolve a Scheme whereby houses may be erected, particularly at South Witham and Barrowby, and let at a rental within the capacity of the agricultural labourer.

It will be seen that 17 houses were erected during the year by private individuals, in six cases with State assistance.

Experience of the last 25 years, together with the Census Returns, makes it appear improbable that any important change in the population will take place in the near future.

Overcrowding is found in a few cases. The causes are that a large family is occupying a house too small for it. In such cases it is usual that both landlord and tenant would wish the tenancy to cease, but either a larger house is not available, or the rent of such house is prohibitive. These causes are very difficult to deal with. It is often easy to visit and make suggestions as to boarding out members of the household, but it is rarely that such advice is taken.

No proceeding, further than this, was taken during the year 1925.

The list of houses erected, and other Housing Statistics for the year 1925, will be found at the end of the report.





It will be convenient here to place on record the various Works undertaken by the Authority or otherwise during the last five years :

- (1) 52 houses were erected under the Government Scheme.
- (2) 45 houses were erected by private enterprise.
- (3) 28 houses were improved and alterations carried out, under the Housing Acts Scheme.
- (4) New 6" sewers were constructed in Great Gonerby and Woolathorpe.
- (5) Two bacteria beds were reconstructed at Barrowby and Hough-on-the-Hill.
- (6) A new 3" water main was laid at Ropsley.
- (7) 90 yards of 6" sewer were laid at South Witham.
- (8) A 5" bore was sunk at South Witham to a depth of 63 feet, with good result.

#### B. INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. --There are 93 cowsheds in the area. These are periodically inspected.

Meat. --There are only a few slaughter-houses in the district. These are licensed, and are inspected. No action has been necessary during the year, with regard to diseased meat.

#### F. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The List of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1925 is as follows:--

Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	23.
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	3.
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	13.
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	2.
Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	2.
Chicken Pox	-	-	-	-	35.
Tuberculosis pulmonary	-	-	-	-	12.
Tuberculosis non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	4.
Total					<u>94.</u>



It will be noticed that Chicken-Pox, which became notifiable locally in 1924, was fairly prevalent, though much less so than in 1924.

There were two small epidemics of scarlet fever during the year, and in the case of the second one at Colsterworth in September, there was every reason to fear an outbreak, and the Isolation Hospital was opened, five cases being admitted. There were no subsequent cases from this village.

There were no cases of diphtheria during the year.

Three cases of enteric fever occurred at Denton, one having a fatal termination. It was difficult to account for the origin of the cases. The Authority paid for the nursing of these patients.

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During the five years, 1920 - 1924 inclusive, the following notifications have been received :

		<u>Total Number.</u>	<u>Average per year.</u>
Diphtheria	- -	35.	7.
Scarlet Fever	- -	32.	6.
Pneumonia	- -	22.	4.5.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		38.	7.5.
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis		6.	1.

The figures as regards diphtheria and scarlet fever are decidedly lower than they were a decade previously, the corresponding figures for the five years 1910 - 1914 inclusive being :

		<u>Total Number.</u>	<u>Average per year.</u>
Diphtheria	- -	97.	19.
Scarlet Fever	- -	113.	23.

:--:--:--:

It seems certain that Scarlet Fever is now a much milder complaint than it used to be, and it is, in fact, very difficult to diagnose with certainty, for this reason. Diphtheria is probably also milder. The more extensive use of bacteriological examination of throat swabs has increased the accuracy of diagnosis, and prevented the inclusion of other conditions which, clinically, cannot be distinguished with certainty.

It has not been necessary to use the Shick and Dick tests.

The Medical Officer has not been called upon to vaccinate under the 1917 regulations.





Deaths from notifiable disease, excluding tuberculosis, were limited to the fatal case of enteric fever.

There was one death from measles, and three from Influenza.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

An estimate of the prevalence of Tuberculosis in the district was made in the report for 1924.

In the light of further examination of the records, it appears that the figures then given were rather too high, and it would be fairly accurate to say that 2 per 1000 of the population are suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and one per 1000 from other forms of the disease. This may be considered satisfactory.

Seven patients were admitted from the district into sanatoria during the year, for treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. Two were cured, one improved, two are still under treatment, and two advanced cases died.

During the year twelve cases of pulmonary and four cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, and there were ten deaths from pulmonary and one from non-pulmonary disease.

The Inspector's Report and various Tables are appended.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS.

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# CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>				M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	74.	85.
1.	Enteric Fever...	...	...	1	-
2.	Small-pox	...	...	-	-
3.	Measles	...	...	-	1
4.	Scarlet Fever...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough..	...	...	-	-
6.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
7.	Influenza	...	...	2	1
8.	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	-	-
9.	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	-	-
10.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	3	7
11.	Other tuberculous diseases..	...	...	1	-
12.	Cancer, malignant disease...	...	...	6	11
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	-	-
14.	Diabetes	...	...	-	1
15.	Cerebral haemorrhage, &c....	...	...	7	2
16.	Heart disease...	...	...	8	11
17.	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	7	4
18.	Bronchitis	...	...	4	4
19.	Pneumonia (all forms).	...	...	4	2
20.	Other respiratory diseases..	...	...	1	2
21.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	1	1
22.	Diarrhoea, &c.(under 2 years)	...	...	-	-
23.	Appendicitis and typhilitis.	...	...	1	1
24.	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	-	1
25.	Acute and chronic nephritis.	...	...	1	1
26.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	-	-
27.	Other accidents and diseases or pregnancy and parturition	...	...	-	3
28.	Congenital debility and mal-formation, premature birth..	...	...	4	4
29.	Suicide	...	...	1	0
30.	Other deaths from violence..	...	...	6	-
31.	Other defined diseases	...	...	15	27
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	1	1
<u>Special Causes (included above)</u>					
	Poliomyelitis...	...	...	-	-
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	-	-
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year:</u>					
	Total	---	---	11	8
	Illegitimate--	---	---	-	-
<u>Total Births</u>				138	117.
	Legitimate	...	...	124	109
	Illegitimate..	...	...	14	8
<u>Population:</u>					
	For Birth Rate	...	...	12,430.	
	For Death Rate	...	...	11,970.	



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

## NUISANCES:

Colsterworth. Old Red Lion. Notice to abate P.H. Act, house refuse.  
South Witham. The Square. Notice to abate nuisance to privy and ash-holes.  
Honington. Nuisance to drainage - Butcher's Shop.  
Denton. Drain nuisance to Geeason's property abated.  
Harlaxton. Drainage to Post Office. Nuisance abated.  
Manthorpe. Sewer in street, Nuisance abated.

## DRAINS:

Woolsthorpe. The Chequer's Inn. New drainage system.  
Hough-on-the-Hill. Outfall sewerage.  
Denton. M. H. to sewers.  
Gunby. 50 yards of 6" sanitary pipe, near Inn.  
Brandon. Burst sewer pipe in street abated.  
Ancaster. Outfall cleansed.  
Great Gonerby. Outfall cleansed.  
South Witham. Outfall cleansed.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Manthorpe. 6" drain found stopped up and liberated.  
Welby. Repairs to standpipes and pumps.

## OUTFALL.

Woolsthorpe, Denton, Hough-on-the-Hill,  
Barrowby, Harlaxton, Welby, Great Gonerby,  
Ropsley, Manthorpe, Burton Coggles. Emptying of outfall ditches.  
Old Somerby. Outfall ditch.

## HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:-

(a)	Total	...	...	...	...	23.
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923, 1924 or 1925	...	...	...	...	6.
(1)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(2)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	17.





1. UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES. Inspection:

- |     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected )<br>for housing defects (under the Public )<br>Health or Housing Acts). )                  | 90. |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were )<br>inspected and recorded under the Housing )<br>(Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910) ) | 80. |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a )<br>state so dangerous to health as to be )<br>unfit for human habitation. )              | 10. |

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	7.
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing,  
Town Planning, Ac. Act, 1919:

- |     |   |      |
|-----|---|------|
| (1) | No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which<br>Notices were served requiring repairs...  | 7.   |
| (2) | No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered<br>fit :   |      |
|     | (a) by owners ... ..  | 7.   |
|     | (b) by Local Authority in default<br>of owners ... ..   | Nil. |
| (3) | No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which<br>Closing Orders became operative in<br>pursuance of declarations by owners of<br>intention to close ... .. | Nil. |



B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- |     |   |   |      |
|-----|---|---|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | ) | 11.  |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :  |   |      |
|     | (a) by owners .....   | ) | 11.  |
|     | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners.  | ) | Nil. |

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909 :

- |     |   |   |      |
|-----|---|---|------|
| (1) | Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.   | ) | Nil. |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.   | ) | Nil. |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit. | ) | Nil  |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.  | ) | Nil. |
| (5) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.   | ) | Nil. |

H. C. RUDKIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

3, St. Peter's Hill,

GRANTHAM.





# LIST OF PLANS APPROVED DURING THE YEAR. -----

## (a) Dwelling Houses erected during the Year:-

1.	Dwelling-house,	Belton Lane.
2.	Bungalow.	Harrowby Without.
3.	Dwelling-house.	Harrowby Lane.
4.	2 Wood Bungalows.	Great Gonerby.
5.	Dwelling-house.	Oasby.
6.	Two Cottages.	Denton.
7.	Garage & Store.	Great Gonerby.
8.	Bungalow.	Harrowby Without.
9.	Concrete Bungalow.	New Beacon Road.
10.	Bungalow.	Spittlegate Without.
11.	Wood Bungalow.	Gonerby Hill Foot.
12.	Concrete Bungalow.	New Gorse Road.
13.	Concrete Bungalow.	off New Beacon Road.
14.	Concrete Bungalow.	off New Beacon Road.
15.	Brick Bungalow.	Harrowby Lane.
16.	Brick Bungalow.	Old Somerby.

## (b) Alterations and Additions to buildings during year:

1.	Additions to Bungalow.	Hill Crest, Harrowby Without.
2.	Additions to 7 Cottages.	Gunby.
3.	Additions to Bungalow.	New Beacon Lane.
4.	Additions and Alterations to premises.	Ropsley.
5.	Additions to Farm.	Manthorpe.
6.	Manual Workshop.	Colsterworth School.

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